

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 19090 161539Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----107790 161544Z /46

O 161534Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2694
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 19090

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR IS EG
SUBJECT: CAMP DAVID MEETINGS

REF: STATE 206857

1. PROBLEM OF HOW TO HANDLE OTHER PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS WHILE SADAT AND BEGIN ARE ALONE WITH THE PRESIDENT IS A REAL ONE. AS TALKS GO ON OVER A PERIOD OF SEVERAL DAYS IT WILL BECOME MORE SO. KAMEL, INCIDENTALLY, CONTINUES PROFOUNDLY TO HOPE THAT SUCH PRIVATE TRIPARTITE MEETINGS WILL BE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, BUT I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSION UPON HIM THAT SOME SUCH MEETINGS WILL BE NECESSARY AND SHOULD BE EXPECTED.

2. I THINK THE IDEA OF TRYING TO ENGAGE THE PRINCIPALS IN DISCUSSIONS OF BROADER SUBJECTS WHERE THEY MAY SHARE A COMMON INTEREST IS A GOOD ONE, BUT CARE WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN. ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE AT LEAST, THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE HESITATION TO TALK ABOUT ANY OTHER MATTER LEST THE ISRAELIS AT SOME FUTURE DATE PUBLICIZE IT OR EVEN PUBLICIZE THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 19090 161539Z

AS KAMEL AND CO. SEE IT, THE PRIME PURPOSE OF THE TALKS IS THE ARAB/ISRAELI PROBLEM, NOT OTHER ISSUES.

3. SOVIET STRATEGY IN THE MIDDLE EAST MIGHT NEVERTHELESS BE A USEFUL SUBJECT TO RAISE. THREAT OF RADICALISM ACROSS THE AREA IS MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE EGYPTIANS. THEY WOULD NOT WANT TO SAY TO THE ISRAELIS WHAT THEY ARE

WILLING TO SAY TO US ABOUT THE IRAQIS, LIBYANS, PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS, ETC. AS A MATTER OF FACT, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR KAMEL TO RESTRAIN HIMSELF FROM REMINDING THE ISRAELIS OF ARAB VIEW THAT THE CAUSE OF RADICALISM IN THE AREA IS ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE. COMMON ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MIGHT BE ANOTHER SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION, BUT THE ABSENCE OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE AND AN UNWILLINGNESS TO HAVE ISRAELI OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE WILL MAKE EGYPTIANS RELUCTANT PARTICIPANTS. AS REFTEL NOTES, SECURITY QUESTIONS WOULD BE ANOTHER SUBJECT, BUT ABSENCE OF GAMASY MEANS THERE IS NO ONE ON EGYPTIAN SIDE TO HANDLE THE MATTER.

4. THERE MAY BE OTHER SUBJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST, BUT I SUBMIT THERE IS A LIMIT TO HOW FAR SUCH EXTRANEous SUBJECTS CAN BE DISCUSSED. I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT TRIPARTITE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETINGS MIGHT RESULT IN TASKING THEIR SUBORDINATES WITH CERTAIN PAPERS OR STUDIES AND THUS OCCUPYING THEIR TIME. AS FAR AS EGYPTIANS ARE CONCERNED, WE WILL HAVE TO EXPECT THAT THEIR PRIMARY FOCUS WILL BE ON ARAB/ISRAELI MATTERS. IT WILL BE HARD TO KEEP THEIR ATTENTION FOR VERY LONG ON OTHER MATTERS.

5. RE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES, EGYPTIAN PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT GENERALLY SPEAKING THE ATHLETIC KIND. KAMEL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 19090 161539Z

LIKES FISHING, AN OCCASIONAL SWIM AND CARDS (BRIDGE, CANASTA, POKER, ETC.). HASSAN KAMEL ENJOYS AN OCCASIONAL SWIM, BUT MAINLY TALK. BUTROS GHALI, IF HIS TIME WERE HIS OWN, WOULD ENJOY READING. HASSAN TUHAMI, I SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. I WILL TRY TO GET SOME MORE INFORMATION ON RECREATIONAL INTERESTS. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, RECREATION, SUMMIT MEETINGS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO19090
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P850067-2085
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780855/aaaabtxb.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 67b5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS, EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 206857
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1714116
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CAMP DAVID MEETINGS
TAGS: PEPR, PBOR, MPOL, PDIP, US, IS, EG
To: STATE TEL AVIV
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/67b5fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014